PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

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Prisoner of War Camps in Japan—Zentsuji

By John Cotton

The camp of Zentsuji was opened on January 16, 1942, and is situated in the northern part of the large island of Shikoku, four miles from Tadotsu near the Inland Sea. It comprises six acres of a fertile plain between two hills covered with pines. The climate is good, and there are no diseases endemic to the neighborhood. The first report from an International Red Cross Committee Delegate who visited the camp stated that the men were at work clearing a nearby hill for planting potatoes, vegetables, and wheat, and that they were paid for this work; while others, working within the camp on necessary upkeep, were being paid somewhat less. The latest report received shows that there were 234 American prisoners (including 54 officers), and 62 Australian officers, in a total camp population of 320.

The buildings comprise two Army barracks two stories high, well ventilated, with the kitchen in a separate building. The barracks have recently been divided into rooms containing from one to fourteen camp beds, each having five thin blankets, a pillow, and a counterpane. Officers have mattresses in addition. Heat is supplied by what are described as "modern stoves." Sanitation facilities were reported to be clean and sufficiently distant from the main buildings. Hot baths are permitted once a week, or twice a week for laborers; cold showers are available every day.

Improvement in Clothing and Rations

Clothing at the camp was reported to be insufficient at first, but later reports indicate that captured uniforms and overcoats had been supplied to prisoners, and that these were sufficient for cold weather.

The daily food ration is reported to be 300 grams (10½ oz.) of bread; 300 grams (10½ oz.) of rice; 160 grams (5½ oz.) of wheat; plus potatoes, vegetables, fish, and eggs. Working prisoners in divisional labor camps are given some extra food. The average weight of the men in one working party was reported to be around 144 lbs. on March 9, 1943—after about a year of captivity.

Some of the working parties going out from this camp are tilling the soil, loading and unloading goods at neighboring railway stations, and laboring in a village bakery. Within the camp the prisoners are raising rabbits to supplement their rations and at last reports there were over 200.

There is an infirmary in the camp and a military hospital nearby. One Japanese doctor is permanently attached to the camp and is assisted by three prisoner doctors. There is a monthly medical inspection of all prisoners.

Sports space is provided for baseball, cricket, and deck tennis, with a "gymnastic excursion" outside the camp once a week. Radio is available, for local reception, and a library of some 500 books was obtained from

American prisoners of war at Zentsuji. This group includes five aviators from the U. S. S. Houston

How Relief Supplies Reach Prisoners of War

By Henry W. Dunning

The procurement, transportation, and distribution of relief supplies for prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe and Asia now engage the labors of many thousands of workers, a large part of them volunteers. Procurement may begin in the workrooms of a Red Cross chapter where sweaters are knitted and bandages rolled; or with the Department of Agriculture which purchases for the Red Cross the food products that go into the prisoner of war parcels packed by volunteers in the packaging centers at Philadelphia, Chicago, and New York; or with the War and Navy Departments which provide clothing and many other supplies; or with the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department which goes into the market for various items of clothing; or by direct Red Cross purchases from manufacturers. In fact, nearly every branch of the United States Government, in one way or another, is now helping to obtain supplies or transportation for prisoners of war relief.

Shipment Overseas

Priorities, clearances, warehousing, inland transportation, etc., all present an endless series of steps to be taken between procurement and transportation overseas. Shipping Red Cross prisoner of war supplies overseas presents another set of problems which have naturally grown more acute as the battle lines have extended and the demands on shipping space constantly increased. Vessels sailing under neutral flags, and with neutral crews, must of wartime necessity be used for shipping such supplies across the Atlantic—either direct to Marseille, France, whence they go overland to Geneva, Switzerland, or to Lisbon for transshipment to Marseille in vessels operated by the International Red Cross Committee. This Lisbon-Marseille "shuttle service," which is used for British and Dominion Red Cross societies as well as for American Red Cross supplies, has recently moved over one million standard food packages a month, besides a large volume every month of clothing, next-of-kin parcels, recreational equipment, tobacco, books, medicines, and other goods. The American Red Cross is now shipping supplies every month to some 370,000 prisoners of war in German and Italian custody, in addition to the shipments being made to American prisoners of war and civilian internees in German and Italian hands.

The Red Cross Fleet

The International Red Cross Committee at Geneva is responsible for moving the goods in the Lisbon-Marseille service, on ships which have been chartered by the British Red Cross Society. Early in the war the Committee applied to the governments of the various belligerent countries and succeeded in obtaining permission to operate neutral ships for prisoners' relief purposes, under the following conditions:

(a) International Red Cross Committee signs must be painted on the ships in such position as to be clearly visible to other ships and to airplanes, and these signs must be thoroughly illuminated at night.

(b) The ships must be accompanied by an appointed representative of the Committee.

(c) The loading and unloading must be supervised by a representative of the Committee.

(d) The cargo is to be consigned to the Committee or to its delegates who are responsible for its distribution.

(e) The belligerents are to be notified of the route and the timetable to be followed.

On the Mediterranean route, safe conduct must be assured for each voyage, six days' notice of sailing to all belligerent Powers being required. Provided no objections have been raised, the ship sails for Marseille. Here the cargo is handed over to the French State Railways, the International Committee making the arrangements for its transportation overland to Switzerland. The round trip to Marseille from Lisbon and back averages about three weeks. No charge is made for rail transportation from Marseille to Geneva, and thence to prison camps in Germany and Italy. On this item alone the French and Swiss railways make an important contribution to the relief of United Nations prisoners of war.

In view of the reduced volume of neutral trans-Atlantic cargo space available, and the pressure of the various Red Cross societies for additional space as the number of prisoners increased, the International Committee asked the belligerent Powers

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the American Embassy formerly at Tokyo and the Nagoya Imperial University. Daily English editions of the *Japan Times Advertiser* and *Osaka Mainichi,* as well as the *Weekly Times, Contemporary Japan,* and tourist library booklets are provided. [*These are all propaganda publications.* Ed.] Officers are offered lessons in Japanese, but reports show little interest in this sort of study.

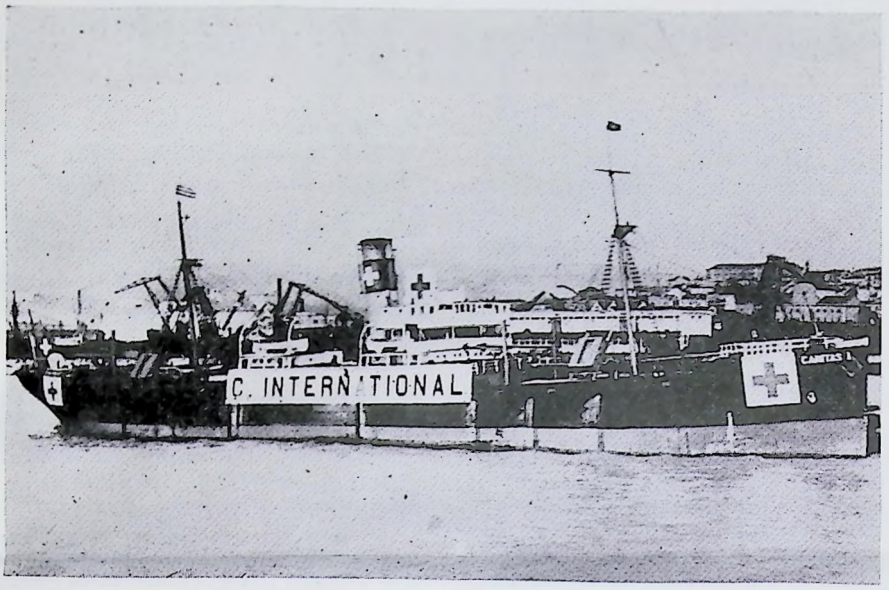
The camp has three portable gramophones and a hundred or more records. Efforts are being made to provide the prisoners with more records and reading material, which they have requested.

Letters from Home Wanted

The prisoners' chief concern, however, as reported to the Delegate, was that they were not hearing from home; but this complaint was made by newly-arrived prisoners. Others had received mail. Further mail from home for this camp was probably among the 150,000 letters for prisoners of war in the Far East which, according to a report dated February 26 last, had still to be distributed. Letters *from* the camp at present are limited to from five to ten per man per year.

A recent statement from the International Red Cross Committee Delegate in Tokyo reported that, late in 1942, Red Cross supplies were sent to the Zentsuji camp. These supplies consisted of 5,280 standard food packages, 130,000 cigarettes, tobacco, toilet articles, and clothing. They were shipped from the United States about a year ago on the *Gripsholm.*

A comparison with reports which have been received on other Japanese camps suggests that Zentsuji is probably among the best.



Red Cross ship Caritas I *at a European Port.*

to agree to the transfer to Swiss registry, for Red Cross purposes, of ships which hitherto had sailed under belligerent registry. The result of this has been the setting up of a new organization for the purpose of operating such ships. This is the Swiss Foundation for Red Cross Transports, incorporated in Switzerland under Red Cross auspices and announced officially on April 23, 1942. The *Caritas I,* the first boat acquired by the Foundation, has just completed her second voyage direct from Philadelphia to Marseille, entirely loaded with American Red Cross supplies. She is the first prisoner of war relief ship to sail from the country of one belligerent to territory occupied by an enemy belligerent.

Red Cross Also Uses Sailing Ships

Besides the *Caritas I,* and the regular monthly allocations of space for prisoner of war supplies provided by the Swiss Federal War Transport Office on Swiss vessels, the American Red Cross has begun to use sailing ships for getting such supplies to Europe. The four-masted barque *Foz Do Douro,* the first sailing ship ever to be used for the transportation of prisoner of war relief supplies, recently completed her maiden voyage from Philadelphia to Lisbon, under Portuguese registry, with a full cargo comprising 329,788 standard food packages. Arrangements have also been completed for a second sailing ship—the former American-owned *Tango*—to enter this service, and she should load her first cargo this summer. All prisoner of war relief shipments are consigned to the I. R. C. C. at Geneva. Representatives of the International Committee at Lisbon and Marseille supervise the unloading, storing, and forwarding of relief goods.

Distribution of Relief Shipments by I. R. C. C.

The Relief Department of the Central Agency for Prisoners of War, which was opened in September 1939, is the branch of the I. R. C. C. at Geneva responsible for the distribution of relief supplies. It has a clerical staff of about 120 and entirely occupies the Hotel Metropole, which has been placed at the service of the I. R. C. C. by the city of Geneva.

The work done by the Relief Department is divided into different sections. First, there is the section for *Collective Relief,* which has to deal with general questions, such as centralization of funds; purchases; negotiations with transport agencies and the warehouses which receive the supplies; registration of goods received and dispatched; formalities connected with transit permits; and dealings with the national Red Cross societies and other relief organizations, in order to keep abreast of camp needs.

A special section of the *Collective Relief* department draws up lists of the supplies available in camps for prisoners of war, divided according to nationalities, and keeps these lists up to date, in order to be informed of the needs of each nation's prisoners. This section also keeps a record of stocks at the disposal of the International Committee, and makes arrangements for transportation to, and distribution in, the different camps.

The second section, known as *Individual Relief,* attends to the numerous special requests received from the camps for such supplies as dental requisites, artificial limbs, spectacles, religious objects, etc. In certain cases gifts received in kind enable the Department to meet these requests, while in others they are passed on to the various national Red Cross societies, relief organizations, or individuals. The same section also attends to complaints and gives information about the sending of parcels.

While the staff at Geneva handles all questions of policy, the Relief Department has organizations in other

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Life Insurance for Prisoners of War

American prisoners of war, wherever located, may take out additional National Service Life Insurance so as to bring up their maximum coverage to $10,000, provided requests for such additional insurance are mailed to the Veterans Administration in Washington, D. C., before midnight on August 10, 1943. No medical examination or formal application to obtain the additional insurance is necessary—merely a letter to the Veterans Administration, which must give the name, rank, previous organization, amount of insurance desired, as well as the name and address of the prisoner's beneficiary.

All American prisoners of war who, up to the time of capture, had not taken out National Service Life Insurance were automatically covered for $5,000 by an Act of Congress. The additional insurance they may now take out, therefore, would increase their coverage to a maximum of $10,000. On the additional $5,000, premiums will be deducted from the pay due the prisoner.

So that prisoners of war would have ample time to mail their requests before August 10, the American Red Cross cabled the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva early in May asking that all possible steps be taken to inform American prisoners of war, wherever located in Europe and the Far East, of this opportunity to increase the amount of their life insurance.

American Nationals in Japanese Custody

Repatriation Negotiations

In August 1942, the diplomatic exchange ship, *Gripsholm,* brought back about 1,500 American citizens from the Far East. On her outward journey to Lourenço Marques, in Portuguese East Africa, where the exchange took place, the *Gripsholm* carried, besides the repatriated Japanese citizens, relief supplies for United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East.

Since that time the Department of State has been in negotiation with the Japanese Government for a second and further exchanges; and, in anticipation of a favorable outcome, relief supplies to a value of about a million dollars were loaded on the *Gripsholm* soon after her return last August. After repeated postponements of this second voyage, and because of the possibility of the food contents of the packages deteriorating if left in the ship's hold for several more months, the supplies were discharged from the steamer in March of this year and shipped to Europe for prisoners of war relief there. The *Gripsholm,* however, remained at New York while the negotiations continued; the Red Cross at the same time making all necessary arrangements for a prompt reloading of the steamer when the negotiations were successfully completed.

Besides the collective relief supplies to be loaded on the *Gripsholm,* every effort will be made to arrange for the sending of individual parcels to American prisoners of war and civilian internees by their next of kin in the United States.

Exchange of Civilians

A recent announcement of the Department of State indicated that progress, though necessarily slow, is being made on these negotiations. In its latest proposal, the Department suggested that a minimum of three more exchanges, involving the repatriation of 1,500 on each exchange, be agreed on. For the time being, however, it is stated that the Japanese Government prefers to limit consideration to one exchange of 1,500 civilians on each side; subsequent exchanges being left for future consideration.

Locating Japanese for Repatriation

The Japanese Government has expressed its desires with respect to the composition of the Japanese passenger list for the second exchange. The Department is now engaged, with the assistance of the other government agencies concerned, in identifying and locating the Japanese whose names have been suggested for inclusion in the repatriation list. The work entails in many cases search throughout the United States for these Japanese. The Department announces, however, that progress is rapidly being made in this matter; but until that task is completed, and final arrangements for the exchange have been made with the Japanese Government, the Department will not be able to indicate the sailing date of the *Gripsholm.*

There are three distinct categories of American nationals in Japanese custody, namely:

(1) Prisoners of war, that is, members of the American armed forces who have been captured by the Japanese armed forces,

(2) sanitary and religious personnel captured while serving with the armed forces, and

(3) civilians in Japan or Japanese-occupied or controlled territory, the majority of whom have been interned.

Prisoners of War and Repatriation

There is no accepted practice among nations, nor provision of international law or conventions, for the return or exchange during war of able-bodied members of the armed forces captured by the enemy. It is a major objective of warfare to reduce as rapidly as possible the forces of the enemy, and it has so far been deemed inexpedient for military reasons to propose the release and return of able-bodied prisoners of war. In the circumstances, there is no immediate prospect of obtaining the release and return to the United States of able-bodied prisoners of war held by the Japanese.

The only prisoners of war whose release and return to their own country are provided for and sanctioned by international agreement and practice are the seriously sick and seriously wounded who are no longer capable of contributing to the war effort. The release and return of such prisoners are provided for in the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929, which both Japan and the United States are applying in this war. Steps are already under way with a view to appointing the neutral medical commission to select the seriously ill and wounded for repatriation. Military operations, and the difficulties of transportation through military zones, are the principal obstacles at present in the way of exchanges of wounded prisoners.

Negotiations are also under way for the release and return of such captured sanitary and religious personnel (chaplains, doctors, nurses, etc.) as are not needed to care for their compatriots who are prisoners of war.

Every endeavor, the Department further states, is being made to obtain the release as quickly as possible of those who are eligible; and all feasible steps are being taken to provide for the well-being of all our nationals of whatever category in enemy hands until such time as they can be offered an opportunity to return to their homes in the United States.

New Mail Route to the Far East

Concurrently with the efforts which continue to be made to arrange for the transportation of relief supplies for United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East, arrangements have also been under discussion for several months with a view to improving the mail service.

These arrangements have now been partially completed, and a new and faster mail route to the Far East has been opened. The new route at present, however, is capable of handling only a limited amount of first class mail; and it is important to emphasize that the use of the lightest weight paper and envelopes will permit a greater volume of letters to go through on this new route. Typing or block-printing will speed up censorship.

It needs also to be emphasized that the directions issued by the Prisoners of War Information Bureau regarding the addressing of mail to prisoners of war should be carefully followed. Publication ARC 316, available at all Red Cross chapters, also gives full directions.

Individual Parcels for Prisoners in Europe

The American Red Cross until about a year ago accepted orders for food packages for identified prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Germany and Italy. The policy was then adopted of sending only collective Red Cross food parcel shipments by nationalities to the prison camps. It was still possible, however, for individuals in the United States to send their own parcels through regular postal channels to prisoners held by Germany and Italy.

For reasons of national security, it has now been found desirable to discontinue the sending of parcels made up by individuals in the United States to prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe, other than British and American. Previous rulings permitting such parcels ceased to be effective on June 10, 1943, when the following regulations took effect:

I. Red Cross chapters will accept orders for standard food parcels for identified prisoners of war in Europe, provided that the person placing such an order
   (a) Presents a current parcel label issued by the Provost Marshal General, War Department, to the officially listed next of kin of captured or interned United States personnel or to the next of kin resident in the United States of captured or interned United Kingdom personnel; or
   (b) Presents a current label issued by the Canadian Government to next of kin of captured or interned Canadian personnel; or
   (c) Presents a blue prisoner of war package label issued by the German authorities to other prisoners of war and sent by them to a resident of the United States, who must establish, by legal or practical proof, that he or she is more nearly related than a first cousin to the prisoner; or
   (d) Establishes by legal or practical proof that he or she is more nearly related than a first cousin to those prisoners in Germany to whom labels are not issued by the German authorities; or
   (e) Establishes by legal or practical proof that he or she is more nearly related than a first cousin to a prisoner, other than American or British, held in Italy.

II. An order for only one package per prisoner each sixty days can be forwarded from national headquarters to the I. R. C. C. at Geneva.

III. Legal proof normally consists of birth records, passports, and affidavits; practical proof consists of communications from the prisoner in which the relationship is indicated, knowledge of friends and neighbors, and other evidence. When other than legal proof of relationship is accepted, a letter describing the basis on which the relationship was established must accompany the order.

IV. The program is not now operative for prisoners held in Japan, due to the lack of transportation facilities.

The program is not operative for captured or interned Australians, New Zealanders, or South Africans held by Germany or Italy.

While the foregoing regulations again permit the next of kin in the United States of American prisoners of war and civilian internees to order the standard Red Cross food package from a local chapter, it should be remembered that these same packages go regularly every week to all American prisoners. It would, therefore, mean using your bimonthly labels to give them simply a little more of the same food, soap, and cigarettes they are already receiving, instead of the pleasant surprises your own packages could give.

Four months after its official opening on March 3, 1943, the Red Cross Packing Center No. 1, in Philadelphia, had made up over 700,000 prisoner of war food packages.

Prisoners of War Bulletin is sent free of charge to those registered as next of kin with the Office of the Provost Marshal General, to American Red Cross chapters, and to workers engaged in prisoner of war relief.

If we have omitted the names of any persons falling within these categories, they may be added to the mailing list by writing to your Red Cross chapter.

Gilbert Redfern,
Editor

Notes on Packages from Home

By Marion Hale Britten

If any relatives of American prisoners captured during operations in North Africa, and now in Italian or German camps, have received pressing requests for articles of clothing or footwear, we wish to emphasize that the United States Army and Navy, in collaboration with the Red Cross, have already made all the arrangements possible for supplying the immediate needs of our prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe. It invariably happens, however, that prisoners are sent first to a transit camp where they may be kept for a few weeks until their final camp destination is decided on; and, since it is not feasible to maintain clothing stocks in these transit camps, the prisoners may be short of clothes for that brief time, and send home a call for help. But long before such help could reach them, they will no doubt have been properly taken care of by the arrangements now in effect.

At all base camps to which American prisoners have recently been sent, subdepots for food and clothing supplies have been set up; and, in cases where American prisoners are sent to camps where British or other United Nations prisoners are held, the camp leaders there have been asked to notify the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva promptly of the arrival of Americans, and at the same time list their clothing and other needs. Supplies are then sent from American Red Cross and Army and Navy stocks which are kept in International Committee warehouses. There is also a reciprocal agreement with the British Red Cross which provides that, whenever American prisoners reach a camp where the British Red Cross has stocks of food packages and clothing, American prisoners, if necessary, can draw on them until American supplies arrive.

Relatives should not address parcels to prisoners of war in transit camps, but wait for the permanent camp address. By the time a second letter is received this permanent address should be known; and the prisoner will then have a better idea of what his needs really are.

A prisoner of war in Germany writes: "The rubber overshoes sent by Mother are proving the best thing she could have sent here." That probably means mud in that particular camp; but letters from other camps echo this sentiment. In our last number, we mentioned such footwear as being a good thing to put in the next-of-kin package—after the Board of Economic Warfare had stated that this item would be added to the list of permissible articles. We hope you know the size!

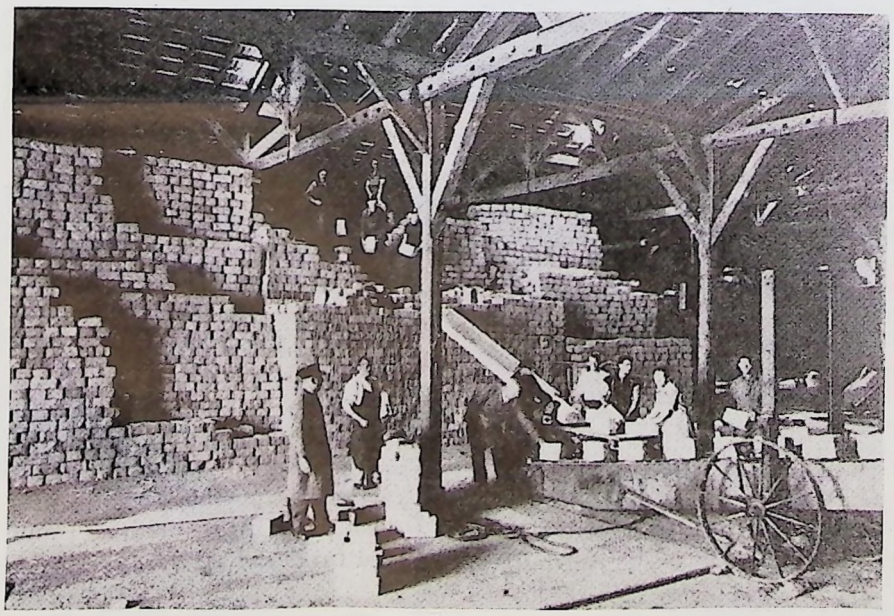
Another prisoner, recently captured, writes: "There's really nothing that I actually need, but what I would like most are the following: a pair of kangaroo-hide rubber sole athletic shoes, a pair of gabardine shorts and a good heavy wool sweater (high neck)." It is the next-of-kin package which gives the opportunity to meet these special demands—in this case, play clothes.

One question we hear frequently concerns the rather limited range of food items included in the earlier lists that came from the Prisoners of War Information Bureau with the parcel labels. There were many reasons for keeping this list short; but the chief aim of the nutritionists and government authorities is to make it possible for the packages to supplement the food already supplied by the detaining Powers and the Red Cross prisoner of war packages. And, of course, the foods should be fairly concentrated so far as nutrition goes, and should be packed so that they keep well. If you bear in mind all these factors, and the difficulties of censoring in two or three different countries, you will see why it is necessary to follow the instructions carefully.

Current Export Bulletin No. 100, issued by the Board of Economic Warfare on June 10, 1943, gave a revised list of the articles permitted for export in next-of-kin parcels. The following are among the many items that have been added to the list:

Fountain pens
Pencils
Water colors and oil paints and brushes
Small musical instruments
Watches
Cooking utensils
Dried vegetables and soups (among a number of additional food items)
Pipe cleaners
Dominoes

The revised list will be sent out by the Prisoners of War Information Bureau with the July 10, 1943, parcel label.



Prisoner of war relief packages leave International Red Cross Committee Warehouse in Switzerland for Axis prison camp.

What Can Be Done With String

Some 30 to 40 British women who had been interned at Camp Liebenau in Germany were repatriated this spring. Among their effects were a variety of articles made from string taken from relief parcels. They included tea cozies, letter racks, sprays of flowers, shopping baskets, handbags, toy rabbits, a cruet stand, and a toast rack, besides slippers and sandals which, as one internee explained, had come in very useful.

Italian Prisoner of War Camp Designations

Italian prisoner of war camps are indicated by number; for example, Campo P. G. 65, Settore 3, P. M. 3400. A mail address for this camp may be written simply P.G. 65, P.M. 3400, Italy. Even when you know that it is located at Gravina Altamura, in Lucalia, you should not include this location in the address—your letter will be returned to you if you do. The P.G. stands for *prigioniero di guerra,* the Italian words for prisoner of war; *Settore* means sector; P.M. stands for *posta militare,* Italian for military post office. All Italy is divided into posts or departments for military purposes. C.C. means a temporary camp from which prisoners are sent on to permanent camps.

Prisoner of war hospitals are also numbered, sometimes with the prefix *Ospedale,* meaning hospital. Their numbers usually contain three numerals instead of one or two.

Civilian internment camps are indicated merely by their geographic location, and in this case there is no restriction on the use of this in the address.

HOW RELIEF SUPPLIES REACH PRISONERS OF WAR

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parts to facilitate the transport of goods for prisoners of war during the successive stages of their journey.

Shipments to Camps

In the huge transit warehouses of the I. R. C. C. at Geneva, Bienne, and Vallorbe, an accurate inventory is drawn up, the goods being stocked in sufficiently large quantities so that they can be sent out to different places as needed. About a hundred men are employed in this work and in the reloading of supplies into freight cars that are daily sent off to the prison camps.

On the arrival of the freight cars at the camps, the supplies are turned over to the camp leader (the senior officer or the elected representative of the prisoners), who checks them and signs for them. He then arranges for their equitable distribution among men in the camp, who in turn sign an individual receipt for each package given to them. Through the I.R.C.C., these individual receipts eventually reach the national Red Cross society which was responsible for making the shipment.

Repatriated from Italy

The Story of an American Ambulance Driver

By H. P. Toler, American Red Cross Reporter in London

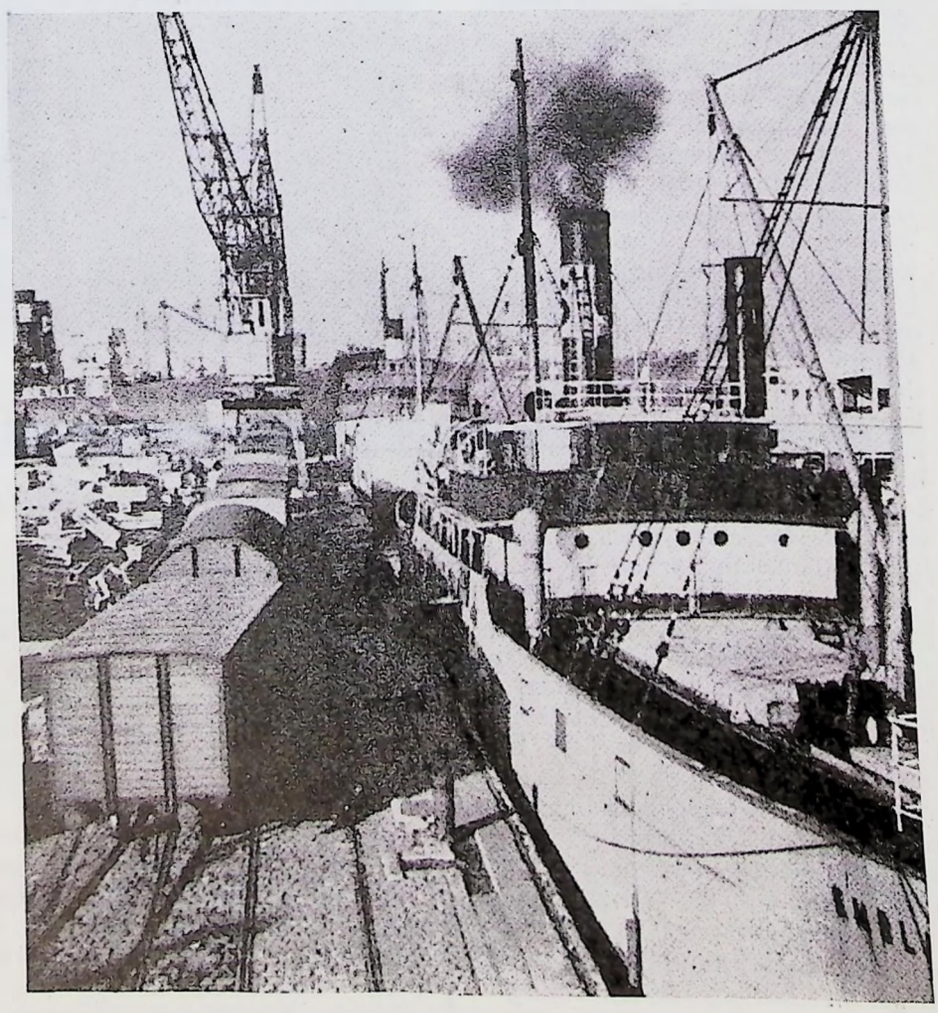
"The clothing sent us by the American Red Cross literally saved our lives," said Peter Cooper Glenn, of 165 Cherry Street, Clarksdale, Mississippi, recently released by the Italian authorities. "We were freezing in a prisoner of war camp in Italy when this welcome raiment arrived," he continued, "and, without it, there would not have been much left for us to exchange in the spring."

Peter was teaching at Hotchkiss School in Connecticut after graduating from Dartmouth, when he decided the war would not wait for him any longer. Enlisting in the American Field Service, a volunteer United States ambulance organization, his unit was attached to the British Eighth Army near Tobruk.

"I was captured while operating with my ambulance alone with an Indian outfit near El Adem," he said. "We were in one of those boxes, a square surrounded by barbed wire and mines, with artillery inside. They look impregnable but a mobile force can usually take them. For a month I'd been evacuating wounded between Tobruk and Bardia. This was last June, just before Rommel put on his big drive for Egypt."

It was Peter's birthday, the 15th of June, and he was twenty-two years old on the day he was captured by the Germans. The position was manned by a mixed Indian battery consisting of Sikhs, Pathans, and Musselmen, commanded by British officers. The unit was nearly wiped out before it was forced to surrender with its guns out of action.

"I had grown fond of the desert," said Peter. "It sort of grows on you;



Prisoner of war supplies, transshipped at Lisbon, Portugal, are discharged at Marseille, France, for rail transport to Switzerland.

and, if you have to fight at all, it's an ideal battle ground. But we learned that you cannot combat a mobile force from a fixed position.

"There was a five-hour attack on our little box and, finally, the infantry, supported by tanks, broke through our mines and our wire. Three of our British officers had been killed, and one by one our guns were silenced. The Colonel was as cool as ice and continued to direct the defense measures. We were facing a glaring sun and a dust storm was just coming up. Shells were bursting all the time and the machine guns kept up an uninterrupted chatter.

"We had some dugouts by the guns, but they were not very secure. We could see the enemy at the end of a ridge and his tanks were all around us. Finally, they rushed us and there was an awful whizzing sound as the tanks came in. There wasn't a thing we could do. A bunch of Jerries held Tommy guns on us and simply marched us away."

Experiences as a Prisoner

Peter said it was pitiful to see the condition of some of the Indian gunners. "They were 'bomb-happy' from shock and completely fagged out," he said. "The Germans marched us a mile away, without any kit. They said they would care for the wounded, so there was nothing for me to do. We were guarded all night and then moved to a point near the coast. Thence to Derna by truck, and we were turned over to the Italians."

"The Italians at that period were confident. Their 'Nostri Valorosi Truppi' (our valiant troops) thought they were winning at the time," said Peter, "and it made them very cocky indeed. From there we went to Barce, then Benghazi and were flown to Italy, fifteen men to a plane. We were five months in a camp at Bari on the South Adriatic."

Moved to Chieti, Peter found himself quartered with a large number of British officers and some 60 Americans. "For the first time we had a view," he said. "At Bari we had only the sunsets to admire. Perhaps because that was all we could see of the world outside, it made them seem the most beautiful I had ever looked at. But in our new camp we could see the Apennines and the Gran Sasso d'Italia, a mountain of about 2,600 feet, covered with snow. The town itself was on a hill behind camp, and a little tram ran up to it. Being able to see out made a lot of difference to us all and the snowy slopes made me dream of skiing days at Dartmouth."

Peter found that the British "wore well" in captivity, and soon classes were organized and amateur theatricals and concerts were started. Red Cross parcels began to arrive. "There is nothing so welcome as a parcel," said Peter. "They all seemed to contain just what we most wanted." Books were finally allowed and a small library was formed. Life had become bearable when the great news of exchange of prisoners became known.

"By that time we had a piano, real cot beds and crockery instead of mess tins to eat from," said Peter. "But these little luxuries didn't mean a thing compared with freedom. We didn't dare allow ourselves to believe it was true for fear of being disappointed. At last the big day arrived and we began our trek towards England."

They traveled by train through Italy and France and embarked at Lisbon, in Portugal. At Hendaye, on the French-Spanish border they saw many Germans. Peter could speak a few words of German and was able

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The Central Agency of the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva card-indexes all prisoners of war. This picture shows the American Section.

Prayer for Prisoners of War

Look, O Lord God, with the eyes of Thy mercy, upon all prisoners of war, especially those known and loved by us. Preserve them in bodily health and in cheerful, undaunted spirit.
Convey Thou to them the support of our love on the wings of Thine own and hasten the day of release; through Him who hath made us free eternally, Thy Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(This daily prayer for prisoners of war was recently heard for the first time at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in London, at a special service of intercession. Written by the Dean of York, Rev. E. Milner-White, for the Red Cross, it has now been adopted for general use in churches in England. The prayer is based on the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 3, verse 17: "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.")

Axis Prisoners in the United States

Conditions of Work

The War Department has announced that the terms of the Geneva Convention are being "scrupulously observed" in the employment of Axis prisoners of war in the United States. Their availability for farm work, as well as for other types of permissible labor, has been receiving careful study for the past several weeks.

Prisoners employed by the federal government are paid at the rate of 80¢ a day. When working for a state or private contractor, their pay is at a rate decided on in advance between the employer and the prison camp commander concerned. It must not, however, be less than the 80¢ a day paid by the federal government.

Enlisted men for whom work is not provided are given a monthly allowance of $3.00. Noncommissioned officers are assigned to supervisory work only, unless such work is not available and they specifically request remunerative occupation.

Allowances for Officers

Officer prisoners may not be compelled to work, but the Geneva Convention provides that they must be paid in accordance with their grade and in line with specific arrangements between the belligerent powers. The allowance for German and Italian officer prisoners is the equivalent of $20 a month for warrant officers and first and second lieutenants; $30 for captains and $40 for those in the grade of major and above.

Pursuant to the Geneva Convention, orderlies are provided officer prisoners from among the enlisted prisoners.

Rations for prisoners are the same as those provided United States troops. Officers are permitted to use their allowances for supplementary rations.

Work done by enlisted prisoners in camp maintenance, or in company administration, is not paid for except for the $3.00 monthly allowance. When, however, such work keeps a prisoner from a job for which he would be paid, he is allowed the sum he would otherwise have earned.

A full program of sports and athletics is provided prisoners, all necessary equipment and sufficient space for games and competitive sports being provided by camp commanders. Camp commanders may also allow prisoners to receive visitors twice a month.

Prisoners Treated with Respect

Prisoners are required to wear the clothing they had at the time of capture, unless it is unfit for use. Reclaimed clothing, if available, is furnished when prisoners' clothing is unfit for wear. If reclaimed clothing cannot be provided, new clothes are given. Prisoners' uniforms are marked "P. W." in white paint. Representatives of the protecting Powers (Spain, for Japan; Switzerland, for Germany and Italy) and Delegates of the International Red Cross Committee visit all Axis prisoners' camps in the United States and see that the provisions of the Geneva Convention are being fully complied with.

In all respects, the War Department states, prisoners of war in the United States are treated with the respect due honorable soldiers, and it is hoped that the humane and considerate treatment accorded America's prisoners will be reflected in similar treatment of American soldiers who are prisoners of war of the Axis Powers.

Chicago Food Packaging Plants

Soon after Food Packaging Center No. 3 in Chicago went into production last March, Mr. Philip K. Wrigley, of the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, volunteered to pack, in a Wrigley plant which was available in Chicago, standard 11-lb. food packages for the American Red Cross.

The Wrigley Company provided the labor and packaging facilities without charge to the Red Cross, producing approximately 5,000 packages daily by using a belt conveyor. Girls insert the various items that make up the completed package as the belt moves, each girl handling one or two items.

This public-spirited action on Mr. Wrigley's part has been greatly appreciated by the American Red Cross, which was thereby able to augment its own assembly operations in Chicago during the month of May to the extent of 125,000 prisoner of war food packages—the total packed in Chicago during that month being approximately 300,000.

The Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company in Chicago using one of its assembly lines for packing prisoner of war packages for the American Red Cross.

Letters FROM PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES

(Editor's Note: The following letters have been furnished to the American Red Cross by relatives of prisoners of war. We shall always be pleased to publish similar letters of general interest. If you are willing to let us publish the letters you receive, please send copies to your Red Cross chapter. In case it is inconvenient for you or the chapter to copy them, ask the chapter to send the originals to us and we will have them copied and returned to you. If you send copies of, or extracts from, prisoners' letters, please be sure to give the date of the letter, the name of the camp, and the prisoner's name.

It is important to remember that all mail coming from prisoners of war and civilian internees is censored by the detaining Power.)

Oflag IX A/Z

March 20, 1943

Dear Mother and Dad:

This is the first chance I have had to write since I have been in Germany. I am in fine health and am in an officers' camp for American and British officers. I was captured February 23 in Tunisia after hiding 9 days behind the German lines . . . After flying from Africa to Italy we came to Germany by train. Lt. George B. from Ennis and Lt. Ed B. from Waxahachie are with me also. The Germans treat us fine although we are a little crowded . . . My address is on the front and there is no limit to letters we can receive. . .

(Editor's Note: Concerning the above letter, a captain wrote the following from North Africa to the prisoner's parents.)

I have just been informed that you have received official notification of A—— being missing in action. I want to elaborate the story a bit, for I'm sure the details will be of interest to you.

The battery was in position in a deep wadi at the base of a mountain; we were working independently of the battalion. On February 13, I sent A—— to the top of the mountain to establish an observation post, which he did. Early the next morning the Germans attacked with tanks and infantry, overrunning the position. During the initial attack, we were in wire communication with A—— who reported to us the actions of the enemy. He saw a large flanking force, which we knew nothing about until he reported it, go around the mountain to attack us from the rear. The battery was forced to withdraw, and was soon taken care of by the flanking force. As I was late in leaving the battery position, I did not get too mixed up with the flanking force, but made my way up into the mountain. I remained there five days (we were surrounded), and on February 15 I went to the observation post. A few infantrymen were there: they said that about mid-morning the previous day A—— left the O.P. I imagine he tried to rejoin the battery; the opinion is that he was captured. This opinion is not based on any facts; merely on the assumption that so many of our troops being known to have been captured, A—— might very well be among them. Space prevents from telling you how much we miss A——. He's a fine boy!

———

Stalag VII-B

Life is a good deal easier now that our traveling is over and we have settled down to Stalag routine. It is very unlike anything I ever had in mind when imagining a prison camp. We cook our own food, which is mainly Red Cross parcels; are left much to ourselves, and have a chance to study if we want to. The compound, with everyone squatting over little fires with pots and pans made from old tins, looks like a cross between a hobo jungle and a sanatorium. All this will end, however, if we are sent on a working party, which at the moment seems quite likely, for then we may be doing anything, from farming in Bavaria to building a railroad in Poland.

(Later)

We are now working in a sugar beet factory, my job being one of a long line of men armed with forks, unloading the wagons of the local farmers into long stone troughs. We work the same hours as civilians (from sun-up to sunset) which is quite a life, I don't mind saying.

———

Stalagluft III

March 8, 1943

Dear Mrs. C——:

It has been quite some time since I wrote to you last and under quite different circumstances. I suppose you have talked to my mother since I've been here in Germany. I've been here three months now and it has been a long wait. I'll certainly be glad when I can be there at home with you for a visit. I've seen plenty of the world since I left—all of England and a big part of the European continent. I'll do my best to bring you a remembrance when I return . . . I'll do my best to repay all the favors done for us. I hope this finds you healthy and happy. I'm perfectly healthy, but, this confining life makes me none too happy. I can't write much and hope you understand the difficulty in writing.

———

Camp No. 21, Chieti, Italy

Dear Mr. S——.

Camp 21 is composed of 1,200 officers, 60 of whom are Americans. There are about 200 men in the camp to do the cooking and cleaning up. The officers live in a "bunk" room which houses about 30 of them. They eat together and, now that American Red Cross parcels are arriving regularly, are not doing too badly in the way of food. The standard of entertainment is high. There are about six orchestras, a good library, and an opportunity to take as many courses as if one were in a university. There is a chance for dental treatment, and medical attention is much better than in other camps. All of this helps to make one forget being a prisoner, although with a nine-foot wall surrounding the place, it seems very much like a penitentiary.

If you have the chance of sending anything from the States, send chocolate, condensed food, raisins, and saccharine tablets. Mail, however, is the most important thing, and although it has been slow and inconsistent in arriving, it is beginning to be a little better, so do write yourself, and have all your friends and relations do likewise, because it is important.

———

Oflag XXI B

Dad and Anna:

Well, it looks like the war is over for me. I am getting along fine; the little wound I had didn't amount to much; just a couple of pieces of an exploding shell. So I am progressing nicely. They will take the stitches out today or tomorrow. I wish that you would write to Washington and find out about my pay. I should have about $50 in the bank but I wrote two checks for a total of $180. Leave the money in there. I think that they will keep paying me so that when the war is over I shall have some money.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. How often may a prisoner of war write letters to his family?

A. The Geneva Convention of 1929 (Article 36) provides that "each of the belligerents shall periodically determine the number of letters and postal cards per month which prisoners of war of the various classes shall be allowed to send. These letters and cards shall be transmitted by post by the shortest route. They may not be delayed or retained for disciplinary reasons."

Officer prisoners in Germany may write three letters and four post cards a month; noncoms and enlisted men two letters and four post cards a month. The Italian authorities allow one letter and one post card a week for all prisoners of war. In both countries, however, members of sanitary personnel may write double this number. As far as is known at present, there is no uniform rule in Japan governing the number of letters a prisoner of war or civilian internee may send. Generally, the decision appears to rest with the camp commander in each camp.

Q. How long does it take a letter to come to this country from a prison camp in Europe? How long does it take my letters to reach the camp?

A. The time varies a great deal, due to irregularities of sailings, censorship delays, and other wartime contingencies. One Red Cross chapter worker (mother of a prisoner and a friend of others) writes that she quite often has anxious inquiries from people on this question, long before there is any possibility of an exchange of letters. She has noticed from her own mail that letters arriving from prisoners in Europe seem to come in about half the time hers take to reach the camps. One boy keeps a careful record of the letters reaching him in Oflag VII-B, and recently reported receiving three letters from the same person in the United States which had taken 116, 108, and 69 days, respectively to reach him. Based on these figures, and those obtained from other sources, an exchange of letters could hardly be expected in less than three months, and is more likely to take longer.

Q. Can I send a copy of "Prisoners of War Bulletin" to an American prisoner in Italy?

A. Printed matter cannot be sent by individuals through the mails to a prisoner of war in any country. In due course, however, we hope to be able to arrange for the publication to be sent, through the International Red Cross Committee, to all camps at which American prisoners of war and civilian internees have been reported.

Q. Is it possible for Americans to send food packages to identified British prisoners in Germany?

A. If the nearest relative of a British prisoner of war lives in this country, he may send him a next-of-kin parcel (which may contain certain foods) every 60 days, through an arrangement made by the Red Cross to have labels issued by our own government. The British Red Cross also sends a food parcel every week to each of its prisoners in Germany and Italy. No food packages in addition to these may be sent British prisoners.

Q. We have a local club interested in doing some war work, and wonder if we could "adopt" some war prisoners, send them packages and write letters to them.

A. Writing letters to prisoners without some good reason by anyone other than relatives or personal friends is definitely discouraged by the government. The "pen pal" sort of letter for prisoners of war will not be forwarded through censorship. There are various reasons for this but two of the principal objections are that an added strain is put on the censorship; while the prisoner, who is strictly limited in the number he can write, is placed under obligation to answer any letters that may be sent him. Naturally, he will want to use his limited number of letters for his own family and closest friends.

As for packages, we have mentioned elsewhere in this issue the restrictions upon the number, as well as the provisions made by the Red Cross to care for any not otherwise cared for. We would suggest that you go to your Red Cross chapter with your problem: certainly there is war work in plenty to be done by any enthusiastic group.

Q. Do you know whether some of the prisoners captured in the Philippines have been taken to Taiwan (Formosa), as reported? Have any Red Cross representatives been there?

A. It is known from official lists (received by the International Red Cross Committee from Japan) that a considerable number of American officers have been taken from the Philippines to Taiwan; and we believe that there are at least three camps with some Americans (perhaps also enlisted men) there. This latter information has been gathered from reports of distribution of American relief goods by the International Delegate in Tokyo. So far as we know, the camps in Taiwan have not been visited either by Delegates of the Red Cross or by representatives of our protecting Power (Switzerland). As soon as it was known that citizens of the United States were being held there, requests were made for such visits and that reports thereon be submitted.

Q. Can photographs be sent to prisoners of war?

A. United States censorship regulations permit photographs to be sent in letters to prisoners of war and civilian internees, but *not* in next-of-kin packages. There are, however, certain restrictions pertaining to the sending of photographs in letters, and the following should be carefully observed:

Photographs must be unmounted.

The subject matter should be

personal, and with an unrevealing background.

There must be no writing on the print.

Any description of the photograph can be given in an accompanying letter.

REPATRIATED FROM ITALY

(Continued from page 8)

to question some of them. "They were stuffed with propaganda," said Peter.

They observed considerable bomb damage in Genoa and Spezia. Passing through France, Peter found the French enthusiastic. They were given the Victory sign again and again. "We'll be seeing you," called the Frenchmen when the guards were not looking.

"It all seems like a bad dream, those days of imprisonment," said Peter, as he lounged in the American Red Cross Mostyn Club in London, where he is staying. "And I sometimes dream about it still. I can hear the German soldiers yelling 'Kommen sie aus!' when they captured us, ordering us to come out of there."

On their promise to make payment after the war, 20 British naval officers now in a German prison camp have obtained wrist watches, totalling $800 in value, from a Swiss manufacturer.

Extracts from Letters

A recent letter from an Italian camp began: "This letter is being written by the light of a sugar tin filled with olive oil."

From Campo P.G. 65, Italy: "I am very pleased to be in a building and not in a tent, as I have previously been. We are able to have hot showers every day. We also have a canteen where we are able to buy such things as grapes, apples and onions, and, during the fruit season, such other additions as peaches, watermelons, plums, tomatoes, and pears. We are paid one Italian lira per day, every seventh day, which enables us to purchase at the canteen."

From Oflag VII B: "From talking with the most recently captured prisoners . . . I don't think people at home realize how welcome they (Red Cross parcels) are, often thinking them a luxury rather than a necessity, which in practice they are. I can't tell you some of the funny episodes of life here as the censors might not think them so funny. I spend most of my time reading; we have plenty of books and no less than (figures deleted by the censor) waiting to pass the censorship. There are about 2,000 officers in the Camp, including 3 American colonels from Tunis, so we got some up-to-date news."

From a British prisoner in Oflag IX A/Z, Germany: "The only item of interest at the moment (March 30, 1943) is that we have over 100 American boys in the camp now. They are a fine lot and if they are a sample of what you are sending over, there is no fear of what the result of this war will be."

From Dulagluft, Germany: "We were shot down over France. I am all right, though I was a bit shaken up and got a little bump on the head. I am being treated very well by the Germans. Do not worry, as conditions are not half as bad as you might think. I am allowed to receive parcels here and you can find out from the local Red Cross how to send them. What I would like to have most is cigarettes."

Change of Address

The names and addresses of the nearest relatives of American prisoners of war and civilian internees, to whom this Bulletin is sent, were furnished to the Red Cross by the Prisoners of War Information Bureau of the Provost Marshal General's Office. To enable us to keep the mailing list up to date, we must rely on our readers to advise us of any change of address. Please inform your Red Cross chapter whenever you change your address and always give the name of the prisoner as well as your own.

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